



Central Hudson Valley Chapter
of the
**American Guild of
Organists**

Newsletter – April 2022

Officers

Laura Russell – Dean
845-232-8601

Nancy Vanderlee – Secretary
914-204-6472

Justan Foster – Board Member
518-965-2389

Eric Hepp – Sub-Dean
845-790-3381

Susan Guse – Treasurer
845-242-1478

Susan LaGrande – Newsletter Editor
845-226-6496

Benjamin Vise - Board Member
330-327-0895

Chapter Web Site

www.chvago.org

CHVAGOboard@gmail.com

Dear Colleagues,

*Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain,
Love lives again that with the dead has been:
Love has come again like wheat that springeth green.*

Text by John Mcleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958), often sung to the
medieval French carol *Noel nouvelet*.

This letter comes at a time when we are all feeling both frightened and hopeful, alternately, and perhaps in equal measure. However, as a Chapter, we have lots of wonderful news to share:

While we continue to use Zoom when it is useful and helpful to us, we are also planning IN PERSON concerts and chapter events! Here is a snap shot of some of our upcoming programs, followed by a special announcement:

In collaboration with NYTOS and CHVAGO, **Bach to Broadway** returns to Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie on Saturday, May 7th at 7:30 PM. The performers include Nathan Avakian on the NYTOS traveling Allen theatre organ, and James Fitzwilliam on the Christ Church Gress Miles pipe organ. There are several special guests, and the theme is Springtime. Watch our online calendar for details.

Our annual **Spuds & Sundaes Social** will return in person on Sunday, June 5th at 3:00 PM at the home of Eric Hepp. The event also includes the annual music and book sale, which benefits our Scholarship Fund. Take a look at our online calendar for more information!

We are in the beginning planning stages of a special **Benefit Concert** of organ, handbell, and choral music to benefit Ukrainian civilians and refugees, uprooted and injured in the invasion by Russia. It will probably take place in late spring/early summer; date, venue, and more info will follow.

Our **Members' Recital**, usually held in the spring, will take place in the autumn of 2022. Furthering our Chapter's mission to educate, support, and present the works of under-represented composers and composers of color, this recital will focus on organ and choral music by composers of color. More details to come!

Now for our Special Announcement:

The Central Hudson Valley Chapter recently heard from the Estate of long-time CHVAGO member Alice Cann, who died in 2020. The Estate attorneys informed our Board that Alice has left a substantial Bequest to CHVAGO to benefit the Margaret Pecoraro Scholarship Fund! The amount is over \$35,000. Knowing how long it often takes to settle estates, it is likely that we will not receive the money for a while. However, that is actually good news, because it gives us plenty of time to work together on a plan for the best way to set up this amazing scholarship opportunity to support our new and rising organists.

Many of you knew Alice Cann. Her obituary was short and sweet. Here it is in its entirety, aside from information about the memorial service, which was held on July 17 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pleasant Valley, where Alice was the organist for over 30 years: "Alice Mary (Zimmerman) Cann passed away on November 29, 2020. She was a Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Aunt, Dear Friend, and Confidant. She is missed terribly and fondly remembered. Alice had many 'pockets' of friends in her life. We have a common bond in our love for her."

CHVAGO Board member Susan LaGrande writes movingly of her memories of Alice: "*Alice was a member of the chapter when I first joined, many years ago. She was already blind, and she was tolerant of me when I tried to assist her by describing the appearance of a church we were visiting. It took me a while to realize how incredibly independent and capable she was.*

"Occasionally I gave her rides to chapter events. She gave me driving directions confidently, and always pressed gas money into my hand when we parted. I visited her house a few times, to hear her improvising at her piano, or to walk with her around her huge yard, where she was surefooted, unafraid to trip over a fallen stick.

"She was a wonderful musician. She had always taught music, and when she went blind she continued playing, both in church and for nursing homes and other community events. She

had memorized almost every hymn in the Episcopal hymnal, and had lots of other music stored in her brain and fingertips. She could play anything, in seemingly any key.

“Alice's most valuable contribution to the chapter was in making calls to members. We had a calling tree where each board member was supposed to make maybe half a dozen calls to remind people of upcoming events, but Alice took the lion's share of calls. Instead of consulting a written list of phone numbers, Alice had to queue up an entry on an analog tape recorder. What a pain that was in the days before random access! But Alice provided the human touch that kept us together. Alice was awarded for outstanding service to the chapter in May of 2008, before we had the League of Distinguished Service.

“She asked me for help a few times, mostly in writing. She was working on her autobiography (I don't know if she ever finished it) and she had written a few other things that she showed me. One was a poem (see “Pea Soup,” below), which she wanted to be formatted on the page in a particular way so as to visually suggest a spoon stirring a pot of soup. I did my best with the formatting, but of course I have no way of knowing whether it matched her vision. This and other writings show how deeply spiritual she was. But for all her spirituality, Alice was not sentimental. She had a dry wit and was always forthright and outspoken, and, as we now see evidenced by her bequest, incredibly generous. She will be deeply missed.”

I close this month's Dean's Letter by quoting the last verse of the hymn I started with:
*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love has come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

I wish you the best of holy days in the upcoming weeks. I am so grateful that we are finding ways to stay safe and to be together again!

In Hope and Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura".

Laura Ramsey Russell, DMA
Dean, Central Hudson Valley AGO

PEA SOUP

Oh God, what's this substance? It's crowding me in,
now crowding me out; I don't even begin.
My mind is rebelling. It's losing the hand
which reaches and forms what's around Alice Cann.
"Exquisite, so beautiful, lovely, come see."
Surely, my dear, you're not speaking to me.
"Outdoors, a diversion; come have a look."
Cancel that too; I'm content with a book,
but reading grows harder, steadily, no fail.
I can't read my music, my recipes, my mail,
the print disappearing right off the page.
I hope I am growing, at some awkward stage.
I'll dream and remember and see in my head.
Will life now be built on memories instead?
And what will it matter where I will be?
I can't see the world. Is it staring at me?
The ham in the pea soup, I know it exists.
The lump in my heart, will it always persist?
I can't see it swimming but still I must chew.
Will you see me normal when I can't see you?
My atmosphere's pea soup; Am I then the ham?
Shall I just contentedly swim where I am?
Am I cut up, disjointed, mere weight on the spoon?
If I can't swim to light am I late or too soon?
When I couldn't sleep from worry I got up to work,
but all jobs were sight jobs; I felt like a jerk.
Awake, I remember this is called night,
my new natural element, absent black sight.
My car lost its windshield, its headlights don't shine.
How do I spend my gas 'til I run out of time?
May I be the driver? Will you come with me?
Can I still choose my path though the road I can't see?
Nor see I my body, am I in a hole?
Wee tunnels of light, I must be a mole.
I'm scratching the earth. Where can I go?
With no far or near do I still want to grow?
My life is a maze. I'm called by a bell.
Though superconditioned, I'm human as well.
I slipped on the stairs yet my dignity's fine.
If you offer an arm with respect, you're most kind.
It now is so obvious I need my cane.
The impulse to chuck it? Somehow it waned.
Loving myself, my most obvious need.
The ham in the pea soup, important indeed.
I'm hearing these words, so I must be alive.
The fear is subsiding, I think I'll survive.
I'll keep on examining what's close at hand,
so I can stay home, deep inside Alice Cann.

Copyright, Alice M Cann, December 27, 1988, Reading, PA

Notes from Alice on PEA SOUP - "I was visiting my mother in her small apartment. Often in the daytime, when I thought of things to do, my diminishing sight would whisper "no." PEA SOUP came from my dreaming. The tape I used got torn, almost threw it out. Months later, mended, there to my amazement was PEA SOUP in bits and pieces. Waking many times that night, obviously, I was pushing the recorder button. I want to pass it on, especially to my brothers and sisters, who know what it's like to slowly go blind from Retinitis Pigmentosa."

Membership News

- Janet Nelson Nickerson has a new phone number, effective immediately: 845-294-8138.
- Connie Lacey has a new address, effective immediately:
2428 Salt Point Turnpike
Clinton Corners, NY 12514
New phone number: 845-750-3114
Email: Crlfamily36@gmail.com
- Welcome to new member Brian Reynolds! He joins us as a Young Organist and has a dual membership with the Eastern NY chapter. His contact info is:
Brian Reynolds
70 Vosenkill Rd Extension Apt B
Catskill, NY 102414
breynolds152@gmail.com
We look forward to welcoming him in person soon!

New Calendar Feature on Our Web Site

If you look at our online calendar, you will note that each event date now includes a box labeled “Add to my Calendar.” When you click on this, it opens an ICS file, which you can use to add the event to your personal calendar. It seems to work best if you have an Outlook account, or on a mobile device. Please give it a try and let us know about your experience so we can perfect this potentially valuable feature.

List of Organ Substitutes

The following chapter members have indicated on their membership application that they will serve as substitute organists. Please contact them directly if you would like more information. Please note that only CHVAGO members in good standing are eligible to be included in this list, unless otherwise approved by the Board. More information about each substitute is provided on our web site at www.chvago.org. If you would like your name listed, or if you need to update your information, please contact the editor using the information above.

Meredith Baker	845-565-3321	Maris Kristapsons	845-635-8837
Joe Bertolozzi	845-337-1216	Sistine Lezon	914-456-0533
Luca Cantone	703-554-5906	Janet Nickerson	845-294-8138
Greg Citarella	845-297-7693	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-687-6013	Edward Palange	914-213-3460
James Fitzwilliam	845-849-3606	Joanne Reed	845-361-3474
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Margaret Ritzau	860-779-3751
Carl J. Geiselhart	845-457-4830	Anthony Rispo	914-979-5181
Susan Guse	845-242-1478	Todd Sisley	518-225-0928
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	Nancy Vanderlee	845-266-3858
Eric Hepp	845-489-2625	Benjamin Vise	330-327-0895
Boyd Herforth	845-687-6233	John Ward	917-657-4614
Wesley Joseph	845-849-0104	Christopher Wynkoop	845-926-7389

List of Organ Teachers

The following chapter members have indicated on their membership application that they are accepting new organ students. Please note that only CHVAGO members in good standing are eligible to be included in this list. More information about each teacher is provided on our web site at www.chvago.org. If you would like your name listed, please contact the editor using the information above.

Meredith Baker	914-261-0028	Janet Nelson Nickerson	845-294-8138
John Baratta	973-222-0618	Michael Oosterhout	301-910-5307
Gregory Citarella	845-297-7693	Anthony Rispo	914-979-5181
Justan Foster	518-965-2389	Benjamin Vise	330-327-0895
Larry Hazard	845-452-0119	Patrick Walker	845-464-9035
Boyd Herforth	845-687-6233		

Deadline for Next Newsletter

We are always glad to receive input for the chapter newsletter in the form of calendar items, reviews of recent concerts and events, biographies, letters, photographs, etc. In order to make sure these submissions can be processed in a timely fashion, please make sure they are received by the 23rd of each month. However, material such as calendar items may be submitted at any time; even if the material may not make it into the printed newsletter, it can be quickly posted on our web site at www.chvago.org. You may submit newsletter or web site material by mail, e-mail, fax or phone. Just contact the editor, Susan LaGrande, using the information given above. Remember, the deadline for the next printed newsletter, to be available the first week in May 2022, is April 23.

Editor's Corner

This newsletter is published by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The editor is:

Susan LaGrande

12 Montrose Lane

Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Phone: 845-226-6496 (home) - e-mail: CHVAGOboard@gmail.com

Position Openings

Editor's Note - Hiring institutions are encouraged to check references from applicants' previous employers. It should not be assumed that applicants who learn of position openings via these listings are endorsed by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Position openings are listed without charge for three months unless an extension is requested. If you would like to place a listing, please contact the editor, Susan LaGrande at 845-226-6496 or email chvagoboard@gmail.com.

Editor's Note – Because there are so many new position openings this month, we are choosing not to list all of them in their entirety. If you have questions about a position, please contact the prospective employer directly using the information provided in the listing online at http://www.chvago.org/CHVAGO_Positions.php. If you need help accessing the online information, please call Susan LaGrande at 845-226-6496.

MUSIC DIRECTOR - Part-Time
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY - SALISBURY, CT
3/29/2022

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST - Part-Time
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - MIDDLETOWN, NY
3/28/2022

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST - Part-Time
**THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-ST.JOSEPH AND OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL -
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY**
3/12/2022

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH – WARWICK, NY
12/21/2021

ORGANIST - (Part-Time)
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - PLEASANT VALLEY, NY
11/11/2021

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - COLD SPRING, NY
8/11/2021

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR - (Part-Time)
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - ELLENVILLE, NY
7/23/2021

Calendar of Events

If you are interested in having an event posted on this calendar, please contact the web site administrator, [Susan LaGrande](#). Events are selected for inclusion based on their relevance and interest to the members of the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The chapter reserves the right to decline or withdraw listings at any time.

Thursday, April 21, 2022 7:30 PM “Duty, Honor, Country!” Choral Concert
West Point Glee Club, West Point Band Brass and Percussion, Constance Chase, director, Craig Williams, organ. Copland “Fanfare for the Common Man,” commissioned work by Steven Sametz, “Duty, Honor, Country!” based on GEN MacArthur’s West Point speech given in 1962, Dan Locklair Festival Setting of the “Alma Mater,” and more. [Cadet Chapel](#). All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public. For more information about visiting West Point, [click here](#). Wearing a mask is required for attending the recital. Info: contact Craig Williams at 845-938-7352 or craig.s.williams58.civ@mail.mil.

Saturday, April 30, 2022
3:00 PM

Centennial Celebration Organ Concert

The [Eastern NY chapter](#) of the American Guild of Organists presents a gala concert and reception to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the chapter. Organist Joey Fala will play works by Franck, Alain, Bach, Howells, and Hindemith and will premiere a piece written by Alfred V. Fedak in honor of the occasion. Mr. Fala is an outstanding organist who is currently the Director of Music at University Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill, NC. A native of Hawaii, he earned engineering and lighting degrees from RPI before pursuing his passion for music and earning a master's degree in organ performance from Yale. Following graduation, he was an organ scholar at Duke University. [Click here](#) for a printable flyer.

[St. Peter's Episcopal Church](#), 107 State Street, Albany, NY 12207. Everyone is invited to a reception in the church following the concert. A freewill offering will be taken. Info: 518 -434-3502

Sunday, May 1, 2022
2:30 PM

Juilliard Trombone Choir Concert

Joseph Alessi, director, with Craig Williams, organ. [Cadet Chapel](#). All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public. For more information about visiting West Point, [click here](#). Wearing a mask is required for attending the recital. Info: contact Craig Williams at 845-938-7352 or craig.s.williams58.civ@mail.mil.

Saturday, May 7, 2022
7:30 PM

Bach to Broadway Concert

Back by popular demand! Come and be dazzled by a Duo Organ Concert featuring Nathan Avakian on the NYTOS Traveling Theatre Organ, and **James Fitzwilliam** on the Gress-Miles Pipe Organ, along with other friends and collaborators including Claire Avakian - vocals; Jim Osborn - trumpet; and Lois Hicks-Wozniak - saxophone. [Christ Episcopal Church](#), 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie. [Click here](#) for a printable flyer. Tickets \$15 at the door. Info: 845-452-8220.

Sunday, May 15, 2022
2:30 PM

West Point Cadet Chapel Organ Recital by Craig Williams

Craig Williams is Organist and Choirmaster at the Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point. Program will include *Phantasie und Fuge über "Ad nos, ad salutarem undam," S. 259* by Franz Liszt. [Cadet Chapel](#). All Cadet Chapel organ recitals and concerts are free to the general public. For more information about visiting West Point, [click here](#). Wearing a mask is required for attending the recital. Info: contact Craig Williams at 845-938-7352 or craig.s.williams58.civ@mail.mil.

Sunday, June 5, 2022
3:00 PM

Spuds & Sundaes Social

After a two-year hiatus, our Spuds & Sundaes Social will be returning! This popular event traditionally was held as a way to unwind after the Christmas craziness, but this year it is taking place in early summer, and will replace the usual chapter picnic. The Spuds in the title refer to baked potatoes, individually wrapped and piping hot, with appropriate toppings. The Sundaes are - you guessed it - ice cream! also with appropriate toppings. These items will be supplied by the chapter, along with beverages and ice. **Eric Hepp** has offered to host this social in his back yard, which is located at 42 Lor-Mar Court in Wappingers Falls ([Click here](#) for directions.) Please bring your favorite lawn chair. As at past socials, we will have several boxes of donated sheet music available for browsing, mostly organ music but some choral and piano pieces as well. If you find something you like, make a donation; all proceeds will benefit our scholarship fund, which was established in memory of Margaret Pecoraro. This is a great occasion to bring a friend who may be interested in our chapter. Networking is always valuable, and we always have memorable conversations at our socials! As we get closer to the event we will provide a way for you to RSVP so we can be sure to provide enough Spuds & Sundaes for everyone. It should be a great afternoon! Watch this space for more information.

Wednesday, August 24,
2022
7:30 PM

Organ Recital by Craig Williams

Craig Williams is Organist and Choirmaster at the Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point. Music of Dupré, Faxon, Liszt, Price, Sowande, Thayer, and Williams. [Methuen Memorial Music Hall](#), 192 Broadway, Methuen, MA. Info: Voicemail: 978-685-0693.



Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
Susan LaGrande, Newsletter Editor
12 Montrose Lane
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
www.chvago.org
CHVAGOboard@gmail.com



Soli Deo Gloria